

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2006-240-C - ORDER NO. 2006-513
AUGUST 31, 2006

IN RE: Request of United Telephone Company of the Carolinas for Certification of the Use of Universal Service Funds Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314 and Telecommunications Act 254(e) Federal Communications Commission CC Docket No. 96-45) ORDER APPROVING) SUBMITTAL OF) VERIFICATION LETTER)))
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the “Commission”) on the request of United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (“United”) that this Commission submit a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) and the Universal Service Administration Company (“USAC”), verifying that United is in compliance with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act. United submitted an affidavit attesting to the fact that Federal Universal Service Funds will be used as intended in compliance with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act.

The FCC’s rules require that, in order for carriers to receive the federal support for which they are eligible, state commissions must file an annual certification with USAC and the FCC stating “that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers [rural incumbent local exchange carriers and competitive carriers classified as eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in an area of a rural incumbent local exchange carrier] will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and

services for which the support is intended.” 47 C.F.R. 54.314. These certifications must be submitted by the state commission prior to October 1 of each year in order for the companies to receive the full federal funding for which they are eligible.


United believes that self-certification is appropriate and that the Commission may rely on such certification. United notes that timing is critical, because if certification is not accomplished by October 1, 2006, federal support for universal service in the areas served by United within South Carolina will not be provided for at least the first quarter of 2007.

The Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) has examined the request. ORS notes that in the affidavit presented, a representative of United certified that the company would use the federal universal service high-cost support received during 2007 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading facilities and services for which the support is intended. ORS states that it recognizes that this certification process has been sufficient in prior years and does not oppose United’s request.

We have examined the request of United and the supporting affidavit, and we agree that the prior certification process has been sufficient in previous years and remains sufficient. Accordingly, we grant the requested relief. This Commission will submit a letter to both the FCC and the USAC, verifying that United is in compliance with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act. The letters will be submitted as soon as is practicable, due to the need for certification by October 1.

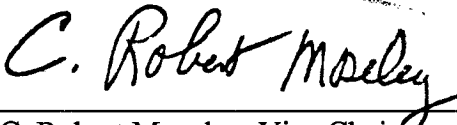
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)